

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCEM-02 INT-08 FPC-01

TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /182 W

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R 061735Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2218

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMAMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 2826

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

US MISSION NATO 2377

UNCLAS ROME 13562

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E O T A G S S U B J O M I T T E D)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF IT SA EEC

SUBJ: SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO ROME

1. SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OMAR SAQQAF, VISITED ROME DECEMBER 3-5. HE RECEIVED FULL RED CARPET TREATMENT AND MET WITH PRESIDENT LEONE, PRIME MINISTER RUMOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER MORO. (SAQQAF DISCUSSION WITH RUMOR AND MORO BEING REPORTED IN SEPTTEL.)

2. SAQQAF VISIT RECEIVED FULL COVERAGE BY LOCAL MEDIA. SAUDI MINISTER QUOTED AS STATING THAT OIL WAS "ONLY WEAPON" IN ARAB HANDS AND DISLOCATIONS CAUSED BY USE OF OIL WEAPON WERE NOT RPT NOT TO BE BLAMED ON ARABS BUT ON "THOSE WHO CREATED MID UNCLASSIFIED

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EAST PROBLEM." ACCORDING PRESS, ITALIANS IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS

WITH SAQQAF REITERATED POINTS IN NOVEMBER 6 EC-9 DECLARATION ON MID EAST.

3. ON DECEMBER 6, ROME DAILY "MESSAGGERO" FEATURED ARTICLE TO EFFECT THAT ITALIANS WERE NOT RPT NOT DISPOSED TO CHANGE THEIR MID EAST POLICY BECAUSE OF OIL, THAT SAQQAF HAD BEEN MADE TO UNDERSTAND THIS POINT, AND THAT ITALIANS EXPECTED OIL CRISIS TO ENDURE FOR A "LONG TIME." ARTICLE ALLEGED THAT FRENCH HAVE BEEN PRESSING WITHIN EC FOR "EUROPEAN OIL POLICY" WHICH WOULD MAKE OIL SUPPLY SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATION BETWEEN CONSUMER AND PRODUCER GOVERNMENTS, CUTTING OUT INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES. ACCORDING ARTICLE, ITALIANS HED REJECTED FRENCH PROPOSAL AND IN THIS CONTEXT REPORT COMMENTED THAT THOUGH "ITALY LOYAL TO EC SOLIDARITY, IT ATTACHED PRIORITY TO THE DEFENSE OF NATO INTERESTS." ARTICLE ALSO CLAIMED THAT SAUDIS WERE PROMOTING "ECONOMIC ENTENTE" BETWEEN ARAB WORLD AND EUROPE DESIGNED TO "PUNCTURE BI-POLAR DOMINATION OF THE U.S. AND SOVIETS."VOLPE

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30 JUN 2005

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